

REMARKS

SUMMARY

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the above-captioned Office Action, claims 9, 11, 13, 15-20, 23, 40, 54, and 72 are allowed. Claims 1-3, 27-29, 33, 36, 38, 39, 41-43, 47, 50, 52, 53, 55-61, 63, 67, 69, and 71 are rejected. Claims 4-8, 30-32, 34, 35, 37, 44-46, 48, 49, 51, 64-66, 68, and 70 are objected to for depending on a rejected base claim. Amendments are presented to place the application into condition for allowance per CFR 37 CFR §1.116(b)(1). In particular, claims 4, 6-8, 15, 30-35, 36-39, 44-53, 56-58, 61, and 64-71 are amended to place them into condition for allowance. Claims 10, 12, 14, 24-26, and 62 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-3, 27-29, 41-43, 55, and 63 are cancelled herein. No new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In “Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103” on page 2 claims 1-3, 27-29, 33, 36, 38, 41-43, 47, 50 and 52 stand rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,946,313 issued to Allan et al. (“Allan”) in view of US Patent Pub. 2004/0179486 filed by Agarwal et al. (“Agarwal”).

Claims 1-3, 27-29, and 41-43 have been cancelled rendering their rejections moot.

Claims 33, 36, and 38 have been amended to depend from claim 30; claims 47, 50 and 52 have been amended to depend from claim 45. Claims 30 and 45 stand objected to in the above-captioned Office Action for being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable if amended to be in independent form. These claims have been so amended (see below). Thus, claims 33, 36, 38, 47, 50 and 52 should be in a condition for allowance.

In “Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103” on page 5 claims 39, 53, 55-61, 63, 67, 69, and 71 stand rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,978,361 issued to Kokudo (“Kokudo”) in view of Allan.

Claims 55 and 63 have been cancelled rendering their rejections moot.

Claim 39 has been amended to depend from claim 30; claim 53 has been amended to depend from claim 45; claims 56-61, 67, 69, and 71 have been amended to depend from

claim 66. Claims 30, 45, and 66 stand objected to in the above-captioned Office Action for being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable if amended to be in independent form. These claims have been so amended (see below). Thus, claims 39, 53, 56-61, 67, 69, and 71 should be in a condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank Examiner for indicating that claims 9, 11, 13, 15, 16-20, 23, 40, 54, and 72 are allowable.

Claims 4-8, 30-32, 34, 35, 37, 44-46, 48, 49, 51, 64-66, 68, and 70 stand objected to in the above-captioned Office Action for being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable if amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims have either been so amended, depend from a base claim so amended, or have been amended to depend from another objected claim that has been so amended. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 4-8, 30-32, 34, 35, 37, 44-46, 48, 49, 51, 64-66, 68, and 70 should be in condition for allowance.

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank Examiner for considering the arguments filed February 21, 2007.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 4-9, 11, 13, 15-20, 23, 30-40, 44-54, 56-61, and 64-72 is solicited. As a result of the amendments made herein, Applicants submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1542. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P.C., No. 50-0393.

Respectfully submitted,
SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

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